

## PITFALLS OF DRESS

Things to Avoid in the Spring Fashions.

VARIETY A SOURCE OF DANGER

Examples of the Right Modes on the Wrong Women.

Tremendous Scope for Mistake This Season

—Good Taste Needed to Select Becoming Frocks and Hats—Summer Costumes at Bargain Prices—Counties Variations on the Short Coat Idea—The Bolero, the Waistcoat and the Back Coat—Jasmy Possibilities of the Street Frock—Surprise Front Still Enjoys Prestige.

The shops are crowded, the last felt hat has disappeared, and women are at last able to wear their new spring frocks with some degree of comfort; but just as we are agreeing under our breath that spring has come there are indications in the fashion world that spring is almost over. We have no sooner made up our minds what we will wear this season than we are confronted by the fact that it will



CORAL FINE MOUSSELINE WITH LACE OF THE SAME COLOR.

be no time at all before we are worrying over an autumn wardrobe.

All of which is distinctly depressing. If the merchants had the slightest consideration for the feelings of womanhood they wouldn't be making their imported lingerie robes and materials down before the first of May and showing spring hats at reduced prices before April is over. Yet that is what has been done in many of the exclusive shops, whose patrons buy early and leave town before summer comes.

On second thought, the woman whose summer clothes are still, figuratively speaking, in the air may put aside her natural discouragement at the suggestion that the season is far along, and thank the fates that things are as they are. If she had bought earlier she could not take advantage of the bargains that are already beginning to be in evidence and that will reach the big shops in June.

The dearest of frock patterns in fine lawn and batiste, pale blue, rose and lilac, with trimming of flouncing and insertion in the same material embroidered in white open-work, are being offered in one shop at half the price put upon them a month ago. In another place dress lengths of fine all over embroidery on French mull—the last of the pieces—are marked at a tempting figure.

Embroidered linen blouse patterns and frock patterns are the feature elsewhere, and one signs to see the very pattern one passed by in March on account of its cost marked at a price lower than the frock finally bought. Yes, it is already possible to find good bargains in summer dress materials, and the sensible woman will look about her before she buys.

At all the white stuffs the drop in price comes later; for all white may be available,



SLUE VOILE WITH WHITE FIGURE WAISTCOAT. even if carried over to another season. The novelties in color are the first things unloaded by the importers who have little spare room for stock, but there is still plenty of time to buy these and have them made for wear this season. Beds of lace and embroideries are among the bargains worth investigating, and some of the summer silks and voiles are already reduced in price.

However, the calendar stoutly asserts that the season is no further along than May, and the great crowd is still gaily buying without a thought of the summer sales. The frocks being worn upon the street emphasize the diversity in the season's modes—emphasis, too, the awful possibilities in that diversity. For the woman of taste varied modes are a blessing; she may choose what is most becoming; but to the woman without taste the variety offers tremendous scope for mistakes.

Verily, the caricaturist would not lack for inspiration this summer.

Three women were shopping on Twenty-third street last week. One was a short, blousy, round faced blonde. She had

read that long coats give slenderness to the figure, and she had that pernicious theory, common to fat women, that a stout figure forbids all superfluous material and demands tight, close fitting garments.

So she had donned an exceedingly pretty prune color cloth made with a long, tightly buttoned redingote and topped it with a small pill box turban from which a bunch of ostrich tips waved at a rakish angle, and the general effect was enough to make angels weep.

One of her companions, angular, plain and forty, wore a jaunty short skirt and bolero and a roll brim sailor hat tilted forward at a most audacious angle and banked at the back with roses. The other, by virtue of a painfully poor complexion, had chosen a voile in one of the popular bluish lilac shades and wore a

what after the fashion of that pictured in the loose bolero costume sketched in the central group.

Fat fibre braid appears upon many of the tailored versions of the loose bolero costume, and a waistcoat, usually embroidered, or a touch of embroidery upon collar and cuffs, is almost inevitable. Embroidery upon heavy linen of some kind is particularly liked for these relieving notes, but cloth or silk is often used in place of the linen, and embroidered galons, combined with braid, are substituted for the hand embroidery in the less expensive frocks and in some of the very smart imported frocks.

The hand embroidery, however, even if in the simplest form, gives more individuality and distinction to the costume than the most complicated of applied trimmings.

the smother collar or the collar of a dinner coat, through narrower, are put upon a number of the plain tailor frock coats, and these are likely to be in heavy dull black silk or black satin with a fold of white pique running along under their inner edge. Upon a dark blue coat these revers are especially good. When used with a separate pique waistcoat the pique fold is omitted.

The close fitting bolero admits of more variety in detail than the short fitted or sack coats, but if intended for morning street wear and of the tailor genre, the plainer boleros are really smarter in effect than the much trimmed models.

What has been said of collar and waistcoat in connection with the other costs applies here, and a fitted bolero cleverly stitched or strapped and with knowing

A bolero front falling over a girde, in union with postilion or other basque back, is a favorite idea for the afternoon walking or visiting frock, and the same idea carried out in a more elaborate fashion is exceedingly well liked for the dressiest of frocks worn at afternoon functions or for dinner and theater.

We have spoken often of the silk costs of this nature intended for wearing over sheer skirts, and this season lace coats of the same general description are apparently to be all that there is of the most chic. Such little fitted coats of heavy lace laid over satin are worn with skirts of voile or silk, as well as skirts of sheer stuff, and one sees, too, such coats in heavy lace with skirts and blouse fronts of fine lace.

A Louis coat with girde and rounded basque was made of heavy guipure dyed to a delicate pastel blue and made over satin of the same tone, while the accompanying skirt was of sheer voile in the same blue trimmed in bands of satin and inset motifs of guipure. Sleeve frills and a little chemise, jabot and collar were of fine cream lace.

Another French frock, and this one is sketched here, was of straw color mousseline de sole and Alençon lace of the same straw color. The coat of Alençon was drawn closely to the waist curve by a girde of straw colored Liberty satin, and the only contrasting color was in the fine little ribbon embroidery of guimpe and sleeve, which was in all the delicate faded shades. White lace coats over white are valuable additions to a summer outfit, and worn with mousseline chignon or sheer silk skirts are extremely modish.



SUITS OF CLOTH SERGE AND VOILE.

sunnet hat loaded with roses in all the faded shades of blue and lavender and gold and green.

Each costume was according to the laws laid down in fashion journals, but each was calculated to make its wearer look her worst, and we shall see a multitude of such mistakes this season.

The carefully molded, tight fitting redingote models demand at least a comparatively slender figure; the saucy tip tilted little hats require a somewhat small and attractive face and a careful coiffure. If a woman hasn't the face or figure for the season's extremes, in charity's name let her hold fast to the more conservative

Indeed, the elaborate galon and braid waistcoat effects of the cheap ready made street frocks are their least desirable features, and a model really smart in material and line is often spoiled by this elaboration in which one finds a straining after novel effects successful only when planned by an artist.

The plain waistcoat of pique or linen is having a considerable vogue once more, and with a severely tailored suit it is often much more attractive than one of its more pretentious relatives. Take for example the little double breasted fitted coat of the frock illustrated in the large picture.

Such a coat as this to be all that it should be demands the work of a very clever tailor, for its cachet is a matter of line, and no attractive details are there to make one forget a fault in the cut and fit. The coat needs a wearer of good figure, too, although this is not so important a matter as the tailor's skill, for the able tailor can do wonders toward supplementing nature's work and can make such a coat beautiful even upon a figure very mediocre—if left to itself.

Perfectly made of one of the light weight cloths or the new soft fine serge this coat is more chic than nine-tenths of the fustier frocks, and the plain tailored waistcoat of white pique is preeminently the thing to accompany it. One must note in passing the way in which the double breasted fronts are handled, the two buttons at top and one at bottom doing away with the broad line at the waist, which is usually the un-

little tailored pockets needs only a flat collar of embroidered linen or pique, or a plain stitched collar of one of these materials and a trig little waistcoat of the same white stuff to be distinctly modish. Even the waistcoat is not an essential.

On the other hand, one finds many of these close boleros with fanciful braided or embroidered waistcoats and collars. A long sleeve is the usual thing—the moderate coat sleeve or modified gigot—and, in fact, it seems to be a general rule that with the close fitting short coat the long sleeve is preferable to the short.

But to go back to the street frocks from which the mention of the basque coat made us digress, a typical postilion coat of the simpler sort, shown among the small sketches, illustrates the jaunty possibilities

upon a voile frock among the cuts are prettily finished by a flat band of velvet ribbon, and the choeur of velvet with which the crossed ends are attached to the girde carry out the idea of velvet trimming.

The plain pique waistcoat appears again in this frock, crossing in surplice fashion this time.

The surplice front continues its prestige, and even upon plainly fitted bodices a flat surplice effect is often introduced. The coral pink frock illustrated here is a case in point.

It was one of the successful costumes of a recently launched French play costumed by a famous Paris dressmaker, and was of mousseline de sole trimmed in lace tinted to the same coral color and in velvet ribbon of the coral hue. A transparent guimpe of white lace relieved the bodice next the face,

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The use of a separate little coat of cloth to match a frock of silk, or vice versa, is also extremely French, and the trimming of silk with cloth is more popular than ever. One of the most practical and charming costumes brought over by a June bride who has been buying her trousseau in Paris is a blue taffeta made upon Princess lines, although bodice and skirt are cut separately and sewed together at the waist line.

The full blouse, which does not waist, and the full skirt meet in a closely shirred girde, fitted snugly to emphasize the slender waist and its curves, and this shirred girde, which runs down a little way over the hips and up to the bust line, is trimmed with narrow bands of cloth matching the silk and stitched flatly on the shirring at inch and a half intervals. The bands, of course, run around the figure and curve slightly downward in front, giving the correct silhouette. On the center front of each band are set two little dull gold buttons.

The bottom of the full skirt, out to clear, is trimmed in similar bands half way to the knee, and bands of cloth border the square out neck, showing a little lingerie guimpe and collar and appear on the short sleeve.

For wear over this princess walking frock is a little loose short coat of the blue cloth, whose flat silk collar is embroidered in gold and dull blue, while two plaited cords of gold an inch wide and finished with gold tassels tie the coat together carelessly at the throat.

Another street costume in the same trousseau is of fine black cloth and is made with a perfectly plain long coat, exquisitely cut and reaching almost to the bottom of the skirt. Down the whole length of the front runs a plain narrow waistcoat of antique embroidery in dull tones and rare threads of gold on a fawn ground.

The vest buttons down the middle with little dull gold buttons and is bordered on each side by a flat band of black velvet ribbon. A narrow line of embroidery of the rather close coat sleeve, and there is a tiny collar of black velvet. The coat is one possible only to a slender figure, but it is extraordinarily chic.

Bordering of velvet ribbon is much in evidence and is effective when cleverly introduced, although a rather crude form of trimming when awkwardly handled.

Folded surplice collars such as that shown upon a voile frock among the cuts are prettily finished by a flat band of velvet ribbon, and the choeur of velvet with which the crossed ends are attached to the girde carry out the idea of velvet trimming.

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and below this a flat fibu of the coral lace crossed surplice-wise.

The closely molded bodice of higher bust line is unquestionably the prime favorite with the fashionable elect, and plain, tight fitted, seamed basques have put in an appearance in some authoritative quarters, although, mercifully, the softly draped bodice is still the rule.

## GROWTH OF CITIES IN AREA.

New York Increased From 61 to 326 Square Miles in the Space of Ten Years.

The growth of American cities in area is going on pretty steadily and is not always reflected by the growth in population.

Ten years ago New Orleans was a city of 60 square miles area; its present area is 196 square miles.

Cincinnati in the same period has increased from 34 to 43 square miles, Denver from 48 to 58, Indianapolis from 20 to 26, Louisville from 14 to 20, Boston from 7 to 12, San Francisco from 42 to 46, Atlanta from 9 to 12, Duluth from 62 to 67, New Haven from 6 to 10, Portland, Me., from 3 to 2; Fall River from 41 to 45, Little Rock from 8 to 11, Newark from 15 to 22, and Holyoke from 6 to 16.

The city which has made the largest gain in area is New York, which ten years ago covered 61 square miles and now covers 326, the extension of its boundaries to include Brooklyn, Long Island City and Staten Island having taken place in the meanwhile.

Four American cities, all of first importance, have gained little or nothing in area during the last ten years. They are Chicago, with an area of 190 square miles (it was 189 ten years ago), Boston with 42, St. Louis with 61 and Baltimore with 81.

Some American cities are geographically so built that an extension of their boundaries is impracticable. Other American cities made provision in advance for the growth which they expected, and an addition to their boundaries has not been necessary.

A majority of the cities of the country are larger territorially than they were twenty years ago, nearly one-half are larger territorially than they were ten years ago, and the increase of population in American cities has been general. But New York has made the greatest growth both in size and numbers.

## Sense of Smell in Birds.

From Nature.

A study of the habits of flesh-eating birds shows that if they possess the sense of smell at all it is not sufficiently acute to enable them to use it in finding food.

All observers are agreed that when a carcass is hidden, by cover to a screen, it is safe from the attacks of vultures and other carrion seekers; but the most remarkable proof of the ineffectiveness of the sense of smell at all is afforded by experience.

Dr. Guillemard was good enough to relate to me. Many times it has happened, he tells me, that he has seen a vulture or other game, which was too heavy to carry home, be dismembered and hidden in the carcass in an instant.

On returning with natives to carry it to camp he has found a circle of vultures standing round the spot where the carcass had been thrown, completely unaware of the carcass within a few yards of their beaks. (Observations proving the possession of the sense of smell, unless we are willing to accept as evidence the fact that birds are very general among fanciers, that birds are attracted to the smell of meat, and the similar belief of gamekeepers in some parts of the country that they are attracted by valerian. It is said that heavily scented valerian from deserting the doves by appearing their boxes with oil of anise. Poachers are supposed to lure hen pheasants from a wood by anointing gameposts with tincture of valerian.)

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